

REMARKS

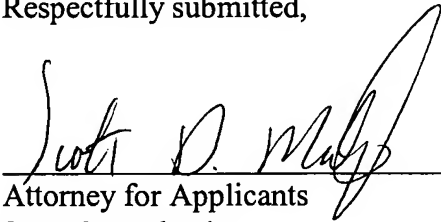
Claims 14-17 and 19-23 are presented for consideration, with claims 14 and 20 being independent.

All of the claims currently stand rejected on obviousness-type double patenting grounds as allegedly being unpatentable over selected claims in U.S. Patent No. 6,317,479, either taken alone (claims 14 and 19-23) or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,570,405 (claims 15-17).

Without conceding the propriety of the double patenting rejection, Applicants are submitting concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer . Reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010 All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Scott D. Malpede
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

SDM/eab